



State of Arizona

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STATEMENT BY GOVERNOR JAN BREWER

"This morning I signed a package of bills that make up the Arizona state budget. Roughly 20 percent of state government spending, approximately \$2.2 billion, has now been permanently reduced since I took office. This is the most significant streamlining of state government ever undertaken, and it is absolutely necessary to balance our budget and begin the Arizona comeback. I applaud the House and Senate Republicans who approved these proposals, and share their disappointment that the most extreme critic of the measures continue to offer no alternatives and no leadership.

"I understand why detractors have proposed absolutely no comprehensive balanced budget solutions. It is an extremely difficult task to unwind years of unsustainable decisions by the previous Administration that have resulted in one of the largest state budget deficits in the United States. I will continue to hold accountable those who were involved in approving the big spending budgets that have left our state financially damaged. But as difficult and as painful as it is to achieve a balanced budget, it is incumbent that true leaders rise to the occasion. It is incumbent that honest decisions and truthful plans about our state's future be enacted. Arizona's employers depend on a stable state government in order to grow Arizona jobs, and job growth must continue to be our highest priority.

"Arizona is navigating its way through the largest state budget deficit in its long history. With my signature on this budget, the first major step to recovery has been taken. The next critical step is the successful passage of Proposition 100. It is my sincere belief that voters will approve this critically important temporary revenue bridge to protect the remaining core funding left to educate our children, to provide public safety for our families, and to care for the most extremely vulnerable among us."

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